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PR 93-143

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# CRUISING WORLD

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

## FAX TRANSMISSION

Date: September 14, 1993

To: George Dillon

Chief of Aviation and Marine Branch, FCC

Fax #: (202) 634-7651

Dear Mr. Dillon,

As a journalist and editor at one of the nation's largest sailing magazines, and as a friend of Mike Plant, I was in a unique and unsettling position to watch and record events as they unravelled following Mike's disappearance in the North Atlantic last fall. Knowing what we now know with regard to Mike's unregistered 406 MHz EPIRB, I'm very encouraged by the steps being taken to ensure mandatory registration.

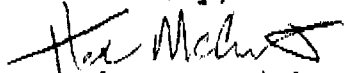
Unfortunately, I feel the current rule under proposal is flawed and inadequate. Though conceived under the best of intentions, it fails in its ability to constitute real change.

Without a complete and uncompromised roster of users and equipment, the entire premise of the COSPAS/SARSAT system is reduced to a network of open-ended questions and maddening uncertainty. The very real technological benefits and possibilities are held hostage to the equally real human fallacies of forgetfulness and procrastination.

Please reconsider the provision calling for point-of-sale EPIRB registration. It is the best, surest way of fulfilling the remarkable promise of modern search-and-rescue advancements and procedures. I truly believe it is the final link in a chain that will save lives and prevent a tragedy like Mike Plant's from occurring again.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

  
Herb McCormick  
Executive Editor

AN AFFILIATE OF



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## TELEFAX

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FROM:

TO:

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NAME: Jean-Pierre Mouligne

ATTN: George Dillon

DATE: September 15, 1993

COMPANY: FCC

PAGE 1 OF 1

FAX # 202-634-7651

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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## MESSAGE:

Dear Mr. Dillon:

It has been brought to my attention that you were involved in a change in regulations concerning registration of 406 EPIRBS.

If I understand correctly, the new regulation will make the registration of the 406 EPIRBS mandatory. I would like to suggest making the registration mandatory at time of purchase.

This is a very simple procedure which can save lives. I have been involved in off-shore, short-handed racing for many years; but only realized after Mike Plant's disappearance that I too had not registered my 406 E-PERB. In 1993 I had done two single-handed trans-Atlantic races back-to-back with a virtually useless piece of equipment.

I think it is critical to make the registration of the 406 E-PERB mandatory at time of purchase. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jean-Pierre Mouligne  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

JPM:bf

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